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THE TOTAL SOLAR ECLIPSE OF APRIL, 1893.

A letter lately received from Dr. JOHN THOME, Director of the National Observatory of the Argentine Republic, Córdoba, announces that he intends to observe the total eclipse of April, 1893, "on or near the railway and telegraph line to Salta" from Rosario de la Frontera, Argentine Republic. The object of the expedition will be to observe the contacts, to search for *Vulcan* and to secure photographs of the Corona. E. S. H.

DISCOVERY OF COMET *e*, 1892.

Professor BARNARD found Comet *e* 1892 recorded on one of his photographs of the Milky-Way on October 12. It was observed visually on October 13 and its orbit has been computed by Professor CAMPBELL. See these *Publications*, page 265.

E. S. H.

JUPITER AND HIS SYSTEM* [BY MISS ELLEN M. CLERKE].

While Miss AGNES CLERKE is making an excursion into antiquity in her recent book (Studies in Homer), and has temporarily deserted Astronomy after printing her two admirable volumes (The History of Astronomy in the XIX Century, and The System of the Stars), her sister, Miss ELLEN CLERKE, comes forward with a capital little pamphlet on *Jupiter* and His System. In about forty small pages a complete popular account of our present information regarding this planet and its satellites is given, in an interesting and straightforward way, equally removed from dullness and from the faintest trace of "smart writing." Members of the Society will do well to read this little book. E. S. H.

WHO OWNS AN AEROLITE?

"DES MOINES (Iowa), October 4, 1892.

"On May 2, 1890, an aerolite weighing sixty-six pounds fell on the land of JOHN GODDARD, in Winnebago County. PETER HOAGLAND dug it up and conveyed it to his house, and sold it as his own to H. V. WINCHELL for $105. GODDARD claimed that the meteor was his, as it fell on his land. HOAGLAND claimed it, as he discovered it first and as it fell from heaven.

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* Published by STANFORD, 27, Cockspur St., London. Price, 1 shilling.

"The matter resulted in a suit, which was decided to-day. The Court held that the stone became part of the soil on which it fell, and that HOAGLAND had no right to remove it. The defense claimed that whatever was movable and found on the surface of the earth, unclaimed by any owner, was supposed to be abandoned by the proprietor. The Supreme Court has just ruled that as this stone was in the earth and practically unmoved, and was placed there by nature, it was a stone included generally under the property to be claimed. The case is unique, with no established precedent."—*Telegram to the S. F. Chronicle.*

THE OBSERVATORY AT ALGIERS.*

The cut facing p. 257 is copied from Lieut. WINTERHALTER'S Report on European Observatories by the kind permission of the Superintendent of the U. S. Naval Observatory (*See Publ.* A. S. P. Vol. III, page 40). The note here given is condensed from the text of Lieut. WINTERHALTER'S Report.

The Observatory of Algiers (founded in 1886) is the direct successor of the provincial observatories which were founded in the early days of French possession.

Its chief instruments are an *Equatorial Coudé*, a meridian-circle, two large reflecting telescopes, and a photographic refractor which will be used in making a section of the International photographic charts of the sky, spectroscopic apparatus, etc. The Sun is regularly photographed here, and it is an interesting proof of the clearness of the sky that photographs of the Sun were secured in 1883 on no less than 310 days.

The latitude of Algiers is + 36° 45′; so that is a little to the south of Mt. Hamilton (+ 37° 20′). E. S. H.

LIBRARY OF THE COLUMBIA COLLEGE OBSERVATORY, NEW YORK.

The following interesting circular has lately been received :

"The library of the Columbia College Observatory has been enriched lately by the purchase of the private library of Mr. STRUVE, former director of the Pulkowa Observatory. This

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* C. TREPIED, Director.